

Information for Survivors of Retired Marines

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Information for Survivors of Retired Marines

General Information

Introduction

- The Marine Corps **only** provides casualty assistance to the primary next of kin (NOK) of Marines who die on active duty, active duty for training, inactive duty training, and those transferred to the Temporary or Permanent Disability Retired List (T/PDRL) and dies within 120 days of separation.
 - This booklet is provided as a guide for benefits the NOK of deceased retired Marines may be entitled. **The services of an attorney or claim agent are not necessary as all benefits mentioned in this publication are paid as designated by the Marine or in accordance with civil law. This booklet contains links to various internet sites for additional information or required forms.**
 - Questions pertaining to and assistance in understanding benefits and completion of claim forms may be available through a variety of agencies such as the:
 - Veterans Service Officer (VSO) or [Retired Activities](#) Officer, located aboard most military installations.
 - [Department of Veterans Affairs](#) at 800-827-1000.
 - Marine Corps Casualty Section at 800-847-1597.
 - [Marine Corps Retired Activities Office](#) at 800-336-4649.
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Notification of Death

- Notification of the Marine's death should be provided immediately to the following agencies (if applicable):
 - [Defense Finance and Accounting Service](#) – Cleveland, OH. This call will generate the SBP/RCSBP/SSBP annuity application process and application for arrears of pay (AP).
 - If the Marine was a Civil Service or Federal Employee Retirement System (CSRS or FERS) retiree, notify the office of Personnel Management at 724-794-8690. Inquiries should be made concerning Civil Service SBP, casualty and Federal Group Life Insurance.
 - If the Marine was also retired from employment in the private sector and a retirement plan is involved, notify that employer or pension plan administrator.
 - Your lawyer, trust administrator, or executor of the estate.

**Notification of
Death**
Continued...

- Banks and stock brokerages that has an individual or joint account in the name of the Marine. Have account number available, if known.
 - All life insurance companies. Have policy numbers available, if known.
 - The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Regional Office. This call could initiate application for potential VA benefits, i.e., burial, application for headstone or marker and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC). Some surviving spouses will qualify for these benefits; many may not. **Allow the VA to make eligibility determinations.**
 - The VA administers most benefits available to survivors of deceased retired personnel. It is recommended that the survivor schedule an appointment with the VA for counseling and completion of claim forms, as soon as possible.
 - [Social Security Administration](#) (SSA). A family member or other person responsible for the Marine's affairs should:
 - Promptly notify the SSA of the Marine's death.
 - If monthly benefits were being paid via direct deposit, notify the bank or other financial institution of the Marine's death. Request that any funds received for the month of death and later be returned to Social Security as soon as possible.
 - If benefits were being paid by check, **DO NOT CASH** any checks received for the month in which the Marine died or thereafter. Return the checks to Social Security as soon as possible.
 - See the list of [Frequently Called Numbers and Addresses](#) for information.
-

Frequently Called Numbers and Addressees

Address Changes/General Correspondence to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service:

1. Retirees/Casualty/SBP/General Correspondence/Address Changes:

Defense Finance and Accounting Service
US Military Retirement Pay
PO Box 7130
London, KY 40742-7130
Casualty reporting: (800) 269-5170
Customer service: (800) 321-1080
Fax: (800) 469-6559
Foreign residents: (216) 522-5955
www.dfas.mil
www.dfas.mil/mail.htm
E-mail: dfas_cleveland@cleveland.dfas.mil

2. Annuitants:

Defense Finance and Accounting Service
US Military Annuitant Pay
PO Box 7131
London, KY 40742-7131
Customer service: (800) 321-1080;
Fax: (800) 982-8459
Foreign residents: (303) 676-6552

Armed Forces Retirement Homes:

www.afrh.com

1. United States Naval Home: (800) 332-3527; (228) 896-3110

Attn: Resident Affairs Office
1800 Beach Drive
Gulfport, MS 39507-1597

2. United States Soldiers' and Airmen's Home: (800) 422-9988; (202) 730-3337

Attn: PAO 499
3700 N. Capitol Street NW
Washington, DC 20317-0001

Board for Correction of Naval Records: (703) 614-1316

2 Navy Annex
Washington, DC 20370-5100

Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS):

(800) 538-9552
in CA: (800) 334-4162
in AK and HI: (800) 527-5602
On-line changes may be made at: www.tricare.osd.mil/DEERSAddress
Update your address in DEERS via e-mail to: addrinfo@osd.pentagon.mil

Delta Dental Retiree Program:

<http://www.deltadental.com>

First Marine Division Association: (703) 803-3195

Fleet Reserve Association: (800) FRA-1924

www.fra.org

Fort Richardson Seward Resort, Alaska: (800) 770-1858
Health Care Financing Administration National Nursing Home Database: www.medicare.gov
Marine Corps Casualty Section (MRC): (800) 847-1597; (703) 784-9512
Marine Corps Legal Assistance (JAL): (703) 614-1266
Marine Corps Military Awards (MMAA): (703) 784-9206/07
Marine Corps Retired Activities Section: (800) 336-4649; (703) 784-9310/11/12 Manpower and Reserve Affairs (MMSR-6) 3280 Russell Road Quantico, VA 22134-5103
Marine Corps Records Correspondence (MMSB-12): (800) 268-3710
Marine Corps Association: (800) 336-0291 www.mca-marines.org
Marine Corps Community Liaison Office: (800) 876-2256; (703) 784-9540
Marine Corps Historical Foundation: (800) 397-7585; (703) 640-7961
Marine Corps Gazette: (888) 237-7683; (703) 640-6161 E-mail: gazette@mca-marines.org
Marine Corps Institute: (800) MCI-USMC
Marine Corps League: (800) MCL-1775 www.mcleague.org
Marine Corps Reserve Officers Association: (800) 927-6270
Marine Corps 8th and I Parade Info: (202) 433-4076/6060 www.marineband.usmc.mil
Marine Mail Web Site: www.usmc.mil/cmc.nsf/MarineMail
Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation: www.marine-scholars.org
MCCS Centers: - East of the Mississippi River (except WI): (800) 336-4663; within VA: (703) 784-2659 - West of the Mississippi River (including WI): (800) 253-1624; within CA: (760) 725-3400
MCJROTC Program Coordinator: (703) 784-3705 Commanding General, Training Programs Branch C-462 MCCDC, 3300 Russell Road Quantico VA 22134-5001 E-mail: woodle@tediv.usmc.mil

Military Records, DD Form 214s: (314) 538-2050
National Personnel Records Center
9700 Page Boulevard
St. Louis, MO 63132-5295

National Mail Order Pharmacy: (800) 903-4680
www.tricare.osd.mil/pharmacy/mail_order.htm

National Cemetery System: www.cem.va.gov

Navy Lodge Worldwide Reservations Center: (800) NAVY-INN

Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society: (703) 696-4904

Office of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance: (800) 419-1473
209 W. Mt. Pleasant Avenue
Livingston, NJ 07102

Rapids Site Locator: www.dmdc.osd.mil/rs/

Retired Activities Office Program Manager: (703) 784-9526

Social Security Administration: (800) 772-1213

Third Marine Division Association: (703) 680-1470

TRICARE Customer Service: (703) 681-1770 Obtain assistance in resolving beneficiary problems

TRICARE Retiree Dental Program: (888) 336-3260

TRICARE Support Office:
(303) 361-1000 www.tricare.osd.mil

VA Benefits and Assistance: (800) 827-1000
www.va.gov

VA Insurance Center: (800) 669-8477

Primary Next of Kin (NOK)

- The primary NOK is the person most closely related to the deceased Marine. **The order of precedence, as defined by Title 10 U.S. Code is:**
 - spouse
 - natural and adopted children in order of seniority
 - parents in order of seniority (unless sole exclusive custody was granted to a person by reason of a court decree of statutory provision)
 - brothers or sisters in order of seniority
 - grandparents in order of seniority
 - other relatives in order of relationship to the deceased according to civil laws.
 - Seniority dictates when persons are of equal degree of relationship.
-

Guardian

- A guardian is a person who has control or custody of another individual that has not yet reached the age of majority or is incompetent, as established by various state laws. In some cases, it may be necessary that guardianship of a minor's estate/property be established prior to payment of death benefits. The following rules apply:
 - **If payment of death benefits is under \$1,000**, the payment is made directly to the natural or adoptive parent(s), when all of the following conditions exist:
 - a legal guardian has not been appointed;
 - the parent has custody of the minor;
 - a statute of the state where the minor and parent reside provides the means for obtaining a good acquaintance and all statutory requirements have been met; or
 - the guardian has submitted a notarized statement indicating the state statute involved, the facts bringing payment to the parent and the parent understands the requirement of the statute.
 - **If payment of death benefits is over \$1,000**, guardianship of a minor's estate/property must be established. Persons desiring appointment **must petition the state civil court**. The petitioning person(s) does not have to be a custodial/natural parent(s). **The Marine Corps cannot recommend nor engage the services of an attorney to help establish a legal guardian for the estate/property of a minor.**
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Burial Information

Burial Allowances

- The VA will pay a burial allowance up to \$1,500 **if the veteran's death is service connected**. In some cases, the cost of transporting the remains of a service-disabled veteran to a national cemetery nearest the home of the deceased may also be paid. In such cases, the person who paid the veteran's burial expenses may claim reimbursement from the VA.
 - VA will pay a \$300 burial and funeral expense allowance for veterans who, at time of death, were entitled to receive pension or compensation or would have been entitled but for receipt of military retirement pay. Eligibility may also be established when death occurs in a VA facility, a nursing home under VA contract or a state nursing home. Additional cost of transportation of the remains may be paid.
 - A \$150 plot allowance is available from the VA when a veteran is not buried in a cemetery under U.S. government jurisdiction under the following circumstances: the veteran was discharged from active duty because of disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty; the veteran was in receipt of compensation or pension or would have been except for receiving military retired pay; or the veteran died in a VA facility. The allowance may be paid to the state if the veteran is buried without charge for the cost of a plot or interment in a state-owned cemetery reserved solely for veteran burials.
 - There is no time limit for filing VA reimbursement claims of service-connected deaths. Other claims must be filed within two years after permanent burial or cremation. Burial expenses paid by the deceased employer or a state agency will not be reimbursed. For information and monetary benefits, contact the VA.
 - The [Social Security Administration](#) (SSA) will provide a one-time, lump-sum death benefit payment of \$255 to the surviving spouse if he or she was living with the beneficiary at the time of death, or if living apart, was receiving Social Security benefits on the beneficiary's earnings record. If there is no surviving spouse, the payment is made to a child who was eligible for benefits on the beneficiary's earnings record in the month of death.
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Burial in a National Cemetery

- National cemeteries are under the jurisdiction of the VA, [National Cemetery Administration](#). Burial includes the gravesite, headstone or marker, opening and closing of the grave and perpetual care. Many national cemeteries have columbaria or gravesites for cremated remains. Gravesites cannot be reserved and must be applied for at the time of death. Reservations made under previous programs are honored.
- **National cemeteries do not conduct burials on weekends or holidays**, nor provide military honors, but may make referrals to military units or volunteer groups. For additional information, contact the cemetery for which burial is being considered.
- Veterans and service members (veterans must have been discharged or separated from active duty under conditions other than dishonorable and have completed the required period of service); persons entitled to retired pay as a result of 20 years creditable service with a reserve component; spouses and minor children of eligible veterans and service members; adult children incapable of self-support due to physical or mental disability; and the surviving spouse of an eligible veteran who marries a non-veteran and the marriage ends in divorce or death of the non-veteran.

Headstones or Markers

- The VA, National Cemetery Administration will provide headstones or markers for the graves of eligible deceased veterans and service members at no cost for placement in a national or private cemetery. **Included are shipping cost (anywhere in the world), but not the cost of placing the headstone/marker on the grave.** There is no cost associated with placement when burial occurs in a national, state veteran or military post cemetery. **The cost of a headstone/marker cannot be applied toward the cost of a private headstone/marker.**
- Headstones/markers are inscribed with the name of the deceased, branch of service and years of birth and death. **Optional items** include the military grade, rank or rate, war service, months and days of birth and death, emblem reflecting religion and text indicating valor awards. Memorial headstones or markers can be provided for remains that are not available for burial as a result of not recovered or identified, buried at sea, donated to science or cremated and scattered. A memorial headstone/marker is the same as those used to identify a grave except that the phrase **“In Memory of”** precedes the inscription.

Mail required form and supporting document to:

**Memorial Programs Service (403)
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20420-0001**

- Questions concerning application and status of an application should be directed to the VA.

**Required
Form(s)**

[VA Form 40-1330](#) – Application for Standard Government Headstone or Marker for Installation in a Private or State Veterans' Cemetery

Burial Flag

- By law, deceased veterans and service members are entitled to **one** flag. The flag is usually presented to the primary NOK or as requested by the family.
 - Should it become necessary, complete the [VA Form 21-2008](#), Application for United States Flag for Burial Purposes, and submit it to a local VA, post office, or national cemetery.
-

Financial Compensation

Death Gratuity (DG)

- The Marine Corps provides a death gratuity of \$6,000 to a deceased Marine's primary NOK. The death gratuity is paid **if death occurred on active duty or in the case of retired Marines who died within 120 days of retirement as a result of service-connected injury or illnesses.**
- Payment in excess of \$3,000.00 is taxable and must be reported to the IRS. Questions concerning DG should be directed to the Casualty Section (MRC) at 703-784-9512, toll free 800-847-1597.
- Per Title 10 U.S. Code, **DG is paid in the following order of precedence: spouse, if none; child(ren), in equal shares (includes natural, step, adopted and illegitimate), if none; parent(s) in equal shares; and brother(s) and sister(s) in equal shares (including half-blood or adopted).**

NOTE: Parent(s) include natural, adoptive or person(s) in loco parentis (must have stood in loco parentis at least 1 year prior to the Marine's entry into active service). Individuals qualifying as "loco parentis" include grandmother, grandfather, aunt, uncle, legal guardian or foster parent(s).

Required Form(s)

[DD Form 397](#) – Claim Certification and Voucher for Death Gratuity Payment

Government and Commercial Life Insurance

- A Marine may elect Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI), up to \$250,000, by submitting the premium within 120 days of separating from active duty or the reserves. After 121 days, the Marine may be granted VGLI provided initial premium and evidence of insurability are submitted within one year after termination of SGLI coverage. Marines with full-time SGLI coverage who are totally disabled at the time of separation may purchase VGLI while remaining totally disabled up to one year following separation. Questions pertaining to VGLI should be addressed to the **Office of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance.**
- For assistance with government life insurance, call the VA Insurance Center at 800-669-8477. Representatives are available from 8:30 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. EST. If the policy number is unknown, send the veteran's VA file number, date of birth, social security number, military serial number or military service branch and dates of service to:

- If covered by any other commercial insurance policy, the insurance company issuing the policy should be contacted for assistance and claim processing.

**Arrears of Pay
(AP)**

- This is the final settlement of the Marine's retired pay account and includes all pay due up to the date of death. AP is taxable.
- Questions concerning payment should be directed to DFAS.

Mail claim form and supporting document(s) to:

**Defense Finance and Accounting Service
US Military Retirement Pay
P.O. Box 7130
London, KY 40742-7130**

**Required
Form(s)**

SF 1174 – Claim for Unpaid Compensation of Deceased Members of the Uniformed Services

**Survivor
Benefit Plan
(SBP) and
Reserve
Component
Survivor
Benefit Plan
(RCSBP)**

- SBP is a taxable, monthly annuity paid by the [Defense Finance and Accounting Service](#) (DFAS). Participation in this program is voluntary and the Marine makes election at the time of separation from active duty. The beneficiary(ies) is designated by the Marine and includes the surviving spouse, former spouse, children or persons of insurable interest.
- RCSBP is the reserve component equivalent of SBP. A reserve component member who dies and has completed the satisfactory years of service that qualified the member for retired pay at age 60. The program allows reserve component personnel eligible for retired pay at age 60 to participate upon completion of the satisfactory years of service. The member eligible for retired pay at age 60 designates the beneficiaries. The beneficiary choices are the same as for SBP. Participation in the program is voluntary. At the time of election, three options are available to the member:

**Survivor
Benefit Plan
(SBP) and
Reserve
Component
Survivor
Benefit Plan
(RCSBP)**
Continued...

- Option A: declines to make an election until age 60. If death occurs prior to age 60, no annuity is payable.
 - Option B: provides for coverage for an annuity to begin on the 60th anniversary of the member's birth, if death occurs before age 60, or to begin immediately when death occurs after age 60.
 - Option C: provides for coverage for an annuity to begin immediately, whether death occurs before or after age 60.
- Supplemental SBP (SSBP) may be elected by the Marine provided SBP coverage was elected at the maximum level. The SSBP annuity supplements the 35 percent SBP annuity that is payable when the spouse or former spouse reaches age 62. SSBP annuity is an amount equal to 5, 10, 15, or 20 percent of gross retired pay.

**SBP/RCSBP
Beneficiary**

- As designated by the Marine, eligible beneficiary(ies) include: spouse; spouse and child; former spouse; former spouse and child; and insurable interest.

Offsets

- **Social Security Offset:** The SBP annuity is reduced by the amount of Social Security the survivor would be entitled to receive base solely on the Marine's military service performed after 1956. The offset may not exceed 40 percent of the value of the SBP annuity.
- **Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) Offset:** A spouse's annuity is reduced by the amount of DIC awarded by the VA. Payment is based on the service-connected death of the Marine who provided the SBP. If DIC exceeds the SBP amount, the spouse will receive all SBP premiums paid by the Marine. If the SBP annuity exceeds the DIC payment, the spouse will receive only the amount of SBP premiums paid for the portion of the SBP that is replaced by DIC. The SBP annuity is not reduced if the spouse's DIC derives from the service of another member. A spouse over age 55 who forfeits DIC by remarrying may have the SBP reinstated by repaying the costs that DFAS-DE refunded when the DIC was awarded. The reinstated SBP annuity is effective on the date the DIC expires. Premiums may be paid in lump sum or installments. DFAD-DE deducts installment payments from the SBP annuity.
DIC does not offset an SSBP annuity.
- For specific questions concerning annuities, contact DFAS at 800-321-1080, or fax: 800-982-8459.

**Required
Form(s)**

Claim Forms will be provided by the DFAS upon establishment of the annuitant account.

Mail completed claim forms and supporting document(s) to:
**Defense Finance and Accounting Service
US Military Annuitant Pay
P.O. Box 7131
London, KY 40742-7131**

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)

- The VA provides DIC to the surviving family members of a deceased active duty, active duty for training, inactive duty training or TDRL Marines. DIC is a monthly payment and is non-taxable. The prerequisite for payment is the Marine's death occurred from: a disease or injury incurred or aggravated while on active duty or active duty for training; an injury incurred or aggravated in the line of duty while on inactive duty training; or a disability compensable by the VA. **Death cannot be a result of willful misconduct. Suicides** do not necessarily constitute misconduct. **The VA will make determinations on a case-by-case basis.** If not qualified for DIC, the VA may approve a non-service connected death pension.

Required Form(s)

VA Form 21-534 – Application For Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, Death Pension and Accrued Benefits By A Surviving Spouse Or Child (Including Death Compensation, If Applicable)

Submit completed claim form and supporting documents to the local VA.

NOTE: Denied claims may be appealed by filing an appeal with the Board of Veterans Appeals within a year from date of denial.

Social Security Benefits

- Monthly survivors' benefits can be paid to certain family members, including the Marine's widow or widower, dependent children and dependent parents.
- Further information pertaining to SSA credits and benefits is available by reading the SSA booklet [Survivors Benefits](#) (Publication No.05-10084) or contact the SSA.

NOTE: An appointment should be scheduled with the SSA for counseling and completion of claim forms.

Miscellaneous Information

Natural Guardian Affidavit (for minors)

- Payment of death benefits **not exceeding \$1,000** may be made to the parent as the natural guardian on behalf of a minor provided a legal guardian has not been appointed.
-

Appointment as Guardian of Minor's Property/Estate

- Appointment as guardian of a minor's estate **is required when death benefits exceed \$1,000**. Persons desiring appointment, as guardian **must petition the local civil court**. Payment cannot be made without appointment. **Natural guardian (parent) should not be confused with the guardian of a minor's property/estate**. The guardian of a minor's property/estate does not necessarily have to be the parent. The court can and may appoint a "guardian ad litem".
-

Uniformed Services Identification and Privilege Card (ID Card)

- Survivors of deceased retired Marines must renew their ID card **within 30 days upon the Marine's death**. The ID card can be renewed at the nearest Real-Time Automated Personnel Identification System (RAPIDS) site. ID cards are issued for a period of 4 years maximum and should be renewed upon expiration. Renewal of the ID card will update the recipient's status in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS). Medical, commissary, exchange, and theater privileges remain unchanged.
 - Questions should be directed to the DEERS/Dependency Support Section (MRP-1) at 703-784-9529.
-

TRICARE Family Member Medical Plan

How TRICARE Changes When a Military Sponsor Retires or Dies:

- When a military member retires from active service and begins drawing retired pay, one chapter in the member's life is ended and another begins. If the member has a family, their individual lives change as well; including their TRICARE cost shares.

**TRICARE
Family Member
Medical Plan**
Continued...

	Active Duty Service Member And Dependents	Retired Service Member And Dependents
Enrollment in TRICARE Prime	Active duty service members must be enrolled in TRICARE Prime. Dependents can choose which TRICARE option they prefer—TRICARE Prime, Extra or Standard	Retired service members and their dependents can choose which TRICARE option they prefer—TRICARE Prime, Extra or Standard
TRICARE Prime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No enrollment fees for active duty service members or their family members • No co-payments for outpatient visits to network provider 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enrollment fees apply—\$230 for individuals, \$460 for families • Co-payments (\$12) required for outpatient visits to network providers • Inpatient care - \$11 per day, \$25 minimum • Inpatient mental health—\$40 per day
TRICARE Extra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inpatient care—\$11.90 per day or \$25, whichever is more • Outpatient care—15% of the negotiated cost 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inpatient care—\$250 per day or 25% of hospital's billed charges, whichever is less, plus 20% of allowable charge for separately billed professional services. • Outpatient care—20% of the negotiated cost
TRICARE Standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inpatient care—\$11.90 per day or \$25, whichever is more • Outpatient care—20% of allowable charges • Annual outpatient deductible—\$50 for individuals, \$100 for families (E-1 - E-4), \$150 for individuals, \$300 for families (E-5 and above) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inpatient care—\$401 per day or 25% of hospital's billed charges, whichever is less, plus 25% of allowable charge for separately billed professional charges • Outpatient care—25% of allowable charges • Annual outpatient deductible—\$150 for individuals, \$300 for families

**TRICARE
Family Member
Medical Plan**
Continued...

Catastrophic Cap*	\$1,000 annually	\$3,000 annually
Eligibility for Medicare due to disability or end-stage renal disease (ESRD)	Active duty family members (under age 65) are not required to enroll in Medicare Part B to remain eligible for TRICARE.	Family members of retired service members (under age 65) must enroll in Medicare Part B to remain eligible for TRICARE.

*Catastrophic cap is the annual upper limit and applies only to the allowable charges for covered services.

Use of Military Treatment Facilities (MTF):

- If enrolled in TRICARE Prime to a particular MTF, retirees and family members will have the same access standards as an active duty family. Retirees and families who do not enroll in TRICARE Prime may continue to use MTF's - if a particular facility can accommodate them.* A priority system has been established for access to health care in an MTF:
 - Active-duty service members
 - Active-duty family members who are enrolled in Prime
 - Retirees and their family members, and survivors, enrolled in Prime
 - Family members of active-duty service members who are NOT enrolled in Prime (survivors of military sponsors who died on active duty who are NOT enrolled in Prime are in this priority group)
 - All other eligible persons, including retirees and their families who are NOT enrolled in Prime

Becoming Medicare-eligible:

- Medicare eligibility usually begins on the first day of the month in which the beneficiary turns 65.* If the 65th birthday falls on the first day of the month, Medicare Part A eligibility begins on the first day of the preceding month—eligibility for TRICARE Prime, Extra or Standard ends, and if enrolled in Medicare Part B, eligibility for TRICARE For Life (TFL) begins (effective Oct. 1, 2001). With TFL, beneficiaries retain their eligibility for TRICARE Extra and Standard, but not Prime. TRICARE acts as a second payer to Medicare for services covered by both Medicare and TRICARE. When a retired sponsor reaches age 65 and becomes eligible for TFL, his or her spouse maintains regular TRICARE eligibility until the spouse becomes 65 years old.
- Persons under age 65 who become entitled to Medicare Part A because of disability, or because of end-stage renal disease, and who are enrolled in Medicare Part B, may keep their regular TRICARE eligibility (Prime, Extra, Standard) until they reach age 65 and become eligible for TRICARE For Life or TRICARE Plus. By law, TRICARE pays after Medicare for these eligible persons. Beneficiaries who become eligible for Medicare because of disability or end-stage renal disease should report that eligibility to the nearest military personnel office, on or after the date of eligibility.

**TRICARE
Retiree Dental
Program
(TRDP)**

• **Advantages of the Program:**

- Great coverage for the most commonly needed dental services to help maintain good dental health;
- Coverage beginning immediately upon enrollment effective date, with no pre-authorizations or waiting periods required after enrollment becomes effective, even for major services;
- The flexibility to visit any dentist, within the service area, including specialists. Members can even go to different dentists;
- Enroll any or all eligible family members;
- Special advantages when visiting a DeltaSelect USA dentist, including lower out-of-pocket costs and no claims paperwork;

• **Who Can Enroll:**

- Members of the Uniformed Services (including the Retired Reserve/Guard) who are entitled to retired pay;
- Members of the Retired Reserve/Guard who would be entitled to retired pay, even if under the required age;
- Spouses of enrolled members;
- Children of enrolled members, up to age 21 (or to age 23 for full-time students, or older if they become disabled before losing eligibility);
- The unremarried surviving spouse and eligible children of
 - a deceased member who died while eligible for coverage as described above, or
 - a deceased active duty member who died while on active duty for a period of more than 30 days and whose family members are not eligible, or are no longer eligible for dental benefits under the Family Member Dental Plan; and
 - a former member who is a Congressional Medal of Honor recipient.

• **Those Not Eligible for the Program:**

- Divorced former spouses of eligible members;
- Remarried surviving spouses of deceased members;
- Family members of non-enrolled Marines.

- For additional information contact Delta Dental at 888-336-3260, visit the [TRDP](#) website or write to:

**DDP*DELTA
Federal Services
TRICARE Retiree Dental Program
P.O. Box 537008
Sacramento, CA 95853-7008**

Survivors' and Dependents' Education Assistance (DEA)

- The VA offers [educational assistance benefits](#) to spouses who have not remarried and children of Marines who die from a service-connected injury or illness. Benefits may be awarded for pursuit of associate, bachelor, or graduate degrees at colleges and universities, including independent study, cooperative training, and study abroad programs. Courses leading to a certificate or diploma from business, technical or vocational schools also may be taken.
- Benefits may be awarded for apprenticeships, on-the-job training programs, and farm cooperative courses. Benefits for correspondence courses under certain conditions are available to spouses only. Secondary-school programs may be pursued if the individual is not a high school graduate. An individual with a deficiency in a subject may receive tutorial assistance benefits if enrolled half time or more. Deficiency, refresher, and other training may also be available.
- Eligible persons may receive educational assistance for full-time training for up to 45 months or the equivalent in part-time training. Schooling must be in VA-approved schools and colleges. Payments to a spouse end 10 years from the date the individual is found eligible or the member's date of death, although the VA may grant an extension. In addition to the DEA, various programs are available to help children reach their education goals.
- To apply for benefits, survivors and dependents should complete [VA Form 22-5490](#), Application for Survivors' and Dependents' Education Assistance. The completed form should be faxed to the closest Regional Processing Center:

Regional Processing Center	Fax Number
Atlanta, GA	404-929-3009
Buffalo, NY	716-551-5999
Muskogee, OK	918-781-7864
St. Louis, MO	314-552-9707

Decorations and Awards

- If the NOK desires replacement decorations and awards, requests should be submitted to the [National Personnel Records Center](#). Upon receipt, the Retirees military records must be located and awards verified prior to issue. A request usually takes months to fill.

Mail request and a copy of DD Form 214 to:

**Bureau of Naval Personnel
Liaison Office Room 5409
9700 Page Boulevard
St. Louis, MO 63132**

NOTE: If the DD Form 214 is not available, provide information such as name, rank, serial or SSN and dates of service.

**Navy-Marine
Corps Relief
Society
(NMCRS)**

- The [Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society](#) is a private, non-profit charitable organization sponsored by the Department of the Navy and operates nearly 250 offices ashore and afloat on most Navy and Marine Corps installations. The Society provides financial assistance and counseling for survivors. Financial assistance is provided in the form of interest-free loans and/or grants to family members (children) who are pursuing post secondary undergraduate studies or vocational training. Family members may apply for assistance through any of the Society's field offices, a local office of the American Red Cross or by writing to:

**HQ, Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society
801 North Randolph Street, Suite 1228
Arlington, VA 22033-1968**

- Question should be directed to the Society at 703-696-4904 or visit the [Society's](#) internet site.

**Marine Corps
Community
Services
(MCCS)**

- The [MCCS](#) at various Marine Corps installations provides a wide range of services for family members with valid ID cards. Services available include Disaster and Crisis Assistance, Individual and Family Counseling, Information and Referral, Relocation Assistance and Family Member Employment Assistance Program (FMEAP). **Limited services can be provided to non-eligible family members, e.g., parents and siblings.**
- For more information on services and programs available, contact MCCS at 800-336-4663 East of the Mississippi River (except for Wisconsin), or 800-253-1624 West of the Mississippi. An [MCCS Listing](#) is provided in this publication.

**Gold Star
Wives of
America, Inc.**

- The [Gold Star Wives of America, Inc.](#) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the needs, concerns, and welfare of widows of deceased service members and is located in all 50 states. The members of Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. volunteer their services in the community, the military and veteran organizations.
- Persons interested in becoming a member or who would like to learn more about the organization should contact the Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. at 888-751-6350 or write to:

**Gold Star Wives of America
P.O. Box 361986
Birmingham, AL 35236**

**Tragedy
Assistance
Program for
Survivors
(TAPS) Inc.**

- TAPS is a national non-profit, tax-exempt corporation that provides free services to those impacted by the loss of a Marine. These services include a peer support network, grief and trauma counseling referral, an annual military survivor seminar, a quarterly newsletter, and a caseworker assistance program. **Services are available 24-hours a day with trained crisis professionals on call to help family members cope with the sudden loss of a loved one.** Services are available for all “survivors” including spouses, significant others, parents, children, siblings, co-workers and friends.
- For additional information contact a TAPS representative at 800-959-TAPS (8277), visit the [TAPS](#) internet site or write:
**TAPS Inc.
2001 S. Street NW Suite 300
Washington, DC 20002**

**Presidential
Memorial
Certificate**

- The Presidential Memorial [Certificate](#) is a parchment certificate with calligraphic inscription expressing the Nation's recognition of a service member's military service. It was established in 1962 by President John F. Kennedy and has been continued by every subsequent President. The service member's name is inscribed and the certificate bears the signature of the current President. **The award of a certificate to one eligible recipient does not preclude certificates to other recipients.**

Mail completed request form and supporting document to:

**U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs
National Cemetery Administration (403A)
810 Vermont Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20420**

**Required
Form(s)**

[Presidential Memorial Certificate](#)

**Civil Service
Job
Preference**

- A surviving spouse may be eligible to receive ten-point veterans' service preference for federal service employment if the deceased member served in wartime or in a peacetime campaign or expedition for which the member received a campaign badge or service medal. Information about this point preference and available federal employment can be obtained from a federal Civilian Personnel Office.
-

State Benefits

- Many states have passed laws providing certain rights, benefits and privileges to the surviving spouse and children of deceased service members. These benefits include bonuses, educational assistance, employment opportunities, tax relief, and others.
 - Information on the laws pertaining to a particular state may be obtained from local government officials, the nearest VA office or local veterans' organizations such as the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Disabled American Veterans.
-

Income Taxes

- The nearest office of the [Internal Revenue Service](#) (IRS) should be contacted for information and guidance regarding the survivor's federal tax status. Excluded from gross income for income tax purposes are: Social Security benefits; \$3,000 of the death gratuity payment; burial benefits; VA pension and compensation payments; property (including cash money received as a gift under will provisions); and the face amount of all life insurance policies.
-

Scholarship Information

- Many states, universities, and other groups sponsor scholarship programs for the children of deceased service members, particularly those with wartime service. Contact a high school guidance counselor or local library for additional information.
-

Home Loan Guaranty Services

- VA [loan guaranty services](#) are available to service members, veterans, reservists, and **unremarried surviving spouses** for the purchase of homes, condominiums, and manufactured homes and for refinancing loans. VA guarantees part of the total loan, permitting the purchaser to obtain a mortgage with a competitive interest rate, even without a down payment if the lender agrees.
 - The surviving spouse should complete [VA Form 26-1817](#), Request For Determination Of Loan Guaranty Eligibility - Unremarried Surviving Spouses. For additional information, contact the VA at 800-827-1000.
-

MARINE CORPS COMMUNITY SERVICES (MCCS) LISTING

ARIZONA

MCAS, Yuma
Building 633
Box 99119
Yuma, AZ 85369-9119
(520) 341-5213 DSN: 941

CALIFORNIA

MCLB, Barstow
Building 44
Barstow, CA 92311-5047
(760) 577-6533 DSN: 282

MCB, Camp Pendleton
Box 555020
Camp Pendleton, CA 92055-5020
(760) 725-6206 DSN: 365

MCRD/WRR, San Diego
Building 10
4025 Tripoli Avenue
San Diego, CA 92140-5196
(619) 524-5729 DSN: 524

MCAS, Miramar
Post Office Box 452009
San Diego, CA 92145-2008
(619) 577-6931 DSN: 267

MCAGCC, Twentynine Palms
Box 788100
Twentynine Palms, CA 92278-8100
(760) 830-7206 DSN: 957

GEORGIA

MCLB, Albany
Building 7560
814 Radford Boulevard
Albany, GA 31704-1128
(912) 439-5287 DSN: 567

HAWAII

U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific
Box 64112
Camp H.M. Smith, HI 96861-4112
(808) 477-8748, 8702 DSN: 477

MCB, Kaneohe Bay
Building 1404
Box 63073
Kaneohe Bay, HI 96863-3073
(808) 254-8806 DSN: 457

MISSOURI

MCSA, Kansas City
15424 Andrews Road
Kansas City, MO 64147
(816) 843-3650 DSN: 894

NORTH CAROLINA

MCB, Camp Lejeune
Building 1, Rm 223
PSC Box 20004
Camp Lejeune, NC 28542-0004
(910) 451-3813 DSN: 751

MCAS, New River
P.O. Box 4128
Building 208
Jacksonville, NC 28542-5001
(910) 450-6110 DSN: 750

MCAS, Cherry Point
PSC Box 8009
Cherry Point, NC 28533-8009
(252) 466-4401 DSN: 582

SOUTH CAROLINA

MCAS, Beaufort
Bldg 553
P.O. Box 55018
Beaufort, SC 29904-5023
(843) 522-7572 DSN: 832

MCRD/ERR, Parris Island
Bldg 202
P.O. Box 5100
Parris Island, SC 29905-5003
(843) 525-3792 DSN: 335

VIRGINIA

HQBN, HQMC, Henderson Hall
1555 S. Southgate Road, Bldg 29
Arlington, VA 22214-5003
(703) 614-7206 DSN: 224

MCB, Quantico
2034 Barnett Avenue
Suite 101
Quantico, VA 22134
(703) 784-3471, DSN: 278

JAPAN

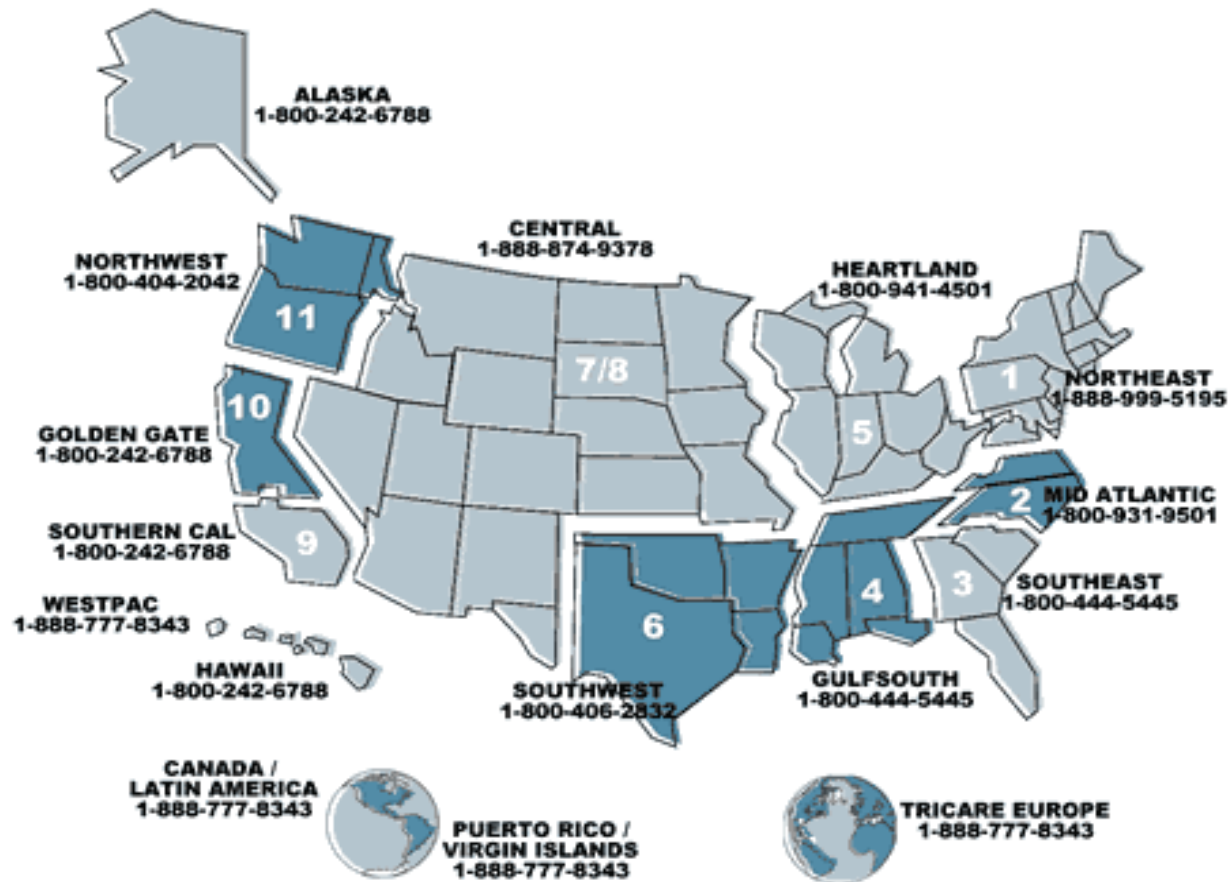
MCB, S. D. Butler
Bldg 001
Unit 35023
Camp S.D. Butler
FPO AP 93673-5023
011-81-611-745-3525 DSN 645

MCAS Iwakuni
PSC 561 Box 1867
FPO AP 96310-0029
011-81-827-21-3070 DSN: 253

Survivor Support Resources

<u>Associations</u>	<u>Telephone #</u>
Defense Finance and Accounting Service	800-321-1080
Department of Veterans Affairs	800-827-1000
Memorial Programs Service	800-697-6947
Montgomery GI Bill/VEAP Refund	888-442-4551
National Cemetery System	800-827-1000
Presidential Memorial Certificate Program	202-656-4259
Ernst & Young LLP	800-425-4425
Gold Star Wives of America, Inc.	888-751-6350
HQMC Casualty Section	800-847-1597
Military Family Resource Center	703-696-9053
Military Medical Support Office (MMSO)	800-876-1131
National Military Family Association	703-823-6632
National Association for Uniformed Services	800-842-3451
Navy Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) Family Liaison	800-479-9685
Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS)	703-696-4904
Office of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance	800-419-1473
Society of Military Widows	800-842-3451
Social Security Administration	800-772-1213
Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS)	800-959-8277

TRICARE Regions at a Glance



Region	Telephone
Northeast (1)	888-999-5195
Mid-Atlantic (2)	800-931-9501
Southeast (3)	800-444-5445
Gulfsouth (4)	800-444-5445
Heartland (5)	800-941-4501
Southwest (6)	800-406-2832
Central (7/8)	888-874-9378
Southern California (9)	800-242-6788
Golden Gate (10)	800-242-6788
Northwest (11)	800-404-2042

TRICARE Pacific

Alaska and Hawaii	800-242-6788
WESTPAC	888-777-8343
Latin America & Canada	888-777-8343
Puerto Rico & Virgin Islands	888-777-8343
Europe	888-777-8343



Department of
Veterans Affairs

NATIONAL CEMETERY SYSTEM
OFFICE OF PUBLIC AND
CONSUMER AFFAIRS SERVICE

WASHINGTON, DC 20420
(202) 273-5221

The Presidential Memorial Certificate

A veteran's family member can receive a posthumous Presidential Memorial Certificate a "*grateful nation in recognition of devoted and selfless consecration to the service of our country...*" This program was established in 1962 by President John F. Kennedy and has been continued by every subsequent President. The engraved certificate, which is signed by the President, honors the military service of the deceased veteran.

To request a Presidential Memorial Certificate honoring the military service of a deceased family member, please provide the following information and return it to:

*U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
National Cemetery Administration (403A)
810 Vermont Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20420*



Presidential Memorial Certificate Request

The Veteran's Full Name _____
(Full first name, middle name, and last name. No nickname, military ranks, or civilian titles)

Other distinguishing info (social security number, date of birth, date of death, etc.):

Please send ____ certificate (s) to: _____

mailing address: _____

city: _____ state _____ ZIP _____

daytime phone number, including area code: (____) _____